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UT HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER[®]

SAN ANTONIO

April 2, 2009

The Honorable Lamar Smith
U.S. House of Representative, District 21
2409 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Smith,

I am pleased to provide you with this letter which I hope will further explain the Health Science Center's FY 10 \$1.3M request for funding. The purpose of this request specifically is for our Center for Innovation in Prevention and Treatment of Airway Diseases (CIPTAD). Acute and chronic airway diseases are rampant in the United States and throughout the world and threaten both young and old. Interactions between infectious agents, environmental stressors, and immune, nutritional and genetic factors trigger a spectrum of serious clinical signs and symptoms. Abnormal lung development in infants and early childhood respiratory infections result in high mortality and long-term morbidity. Asthma alone, more than 15 million Americans of all ages suffer from airway narrowing, tissue remodeling, wheezing, and persistent airflow restriction. At the present time, no satisfactory interventions exist to prevent airway inflammatory processes and exacerbations and progression of respiratory diseases are at an all-time high, and associated health care costs continue to escalate dramatically.

The long-term goal of CIPTAD is to develop successful strategies to diagnose, treat and prevent airway diseases in infants, children and adults in South Texas, nationally and internationally. Furthermore, CIPTAD will foster research excellence through effective collaborations among basic and clinical investigators and trainees, and these interactions will accelerate the application of new knowledge and foster ground-breaking strategies and cures for ailments that disrupt normal airway function and undermine the quality of life for tens of millions of people in the U.S. and hundreds of millions of individuals worldwide.

As our goal is to create a first-of-a-kind center, the American people will be assured that our request for funding will allow our faculty and staff to purchase the necessary equipment to conduct studies which will integrate basic experimental and clinical strategies to understand molecular, cell, animal modeling and patient signs and symptoms of airway injury and disease progression.

Again, thank you for your continued support of our Health Science Center. Best wishes for a successful 111th Congress.

Sincerely,

William L. Henrich, M.D., MACP
Interim President and
Professor of Medicine

*Congressman: I appreciated
the chance to brief you
this week, and I look
forward to our discussions
in future. Warm regards,
Brie*

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